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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4171
INFO RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 3938
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 7629
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RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1577
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRASILIA 000542

DEPT FOR OES/IHB AMBASSADOR LOFTIS
DEPT FOR WHA/BSC
USDA PASS TO APHIS
HHS PASS TO CDC
HHS FOR OGHA

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [AMEDCASCKFLO](#) [TBIO](#) [KSAF](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#)

PINR, AMGT, TF, BR

SUBJECT: TFFLU01: H1N1 INFLUENZA OUTBREAK AND BRAZIL: SITREP # 5

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11. (SBU) This report provides an update on developments in Brazil regarding the H1N1 influenza outbreak.

NEW REPORTED CASES:

12. (SBU) There are no confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu in Brazil, which is most likely due to the fact that Brazil does not yet have the ability to perform the necessary testing. The Minister of Health Jose Gomez Temporao has announced that he expects when Brazil has this testing capability it will confirm the presence of the virus in Brazil. The Brazilian Ministry of Health, in coordination with the National Agency on Health Vigilance (ANVISA), has identified 25 suspected cases of H1N1 in nine different states within the country, and is monitoring 36 other cases spread throughout 16 of Brazil's 27 states. As of the afternoon of May 1, the Brazilian press is reporting that a 50 year old woman died in a hospital in the State of Rio de Janeiro with symptoms of the H1N1 flu. The woman was placed in isolation at the hospital after arriving in Brazil two days ago on a flight from Michigan, USA with H1N1 flu-like symptoms. Samples from the woman have been sent to ANVISA medical labs, and the press reports that the results should be available by Wednesday, May 6.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTIONS:

13. (SBU) In public statements last Friday, May 1, Brazil's Minister Temporao asserted that the Health Ministry believes a confirmed case will inevitably arise, and that the government and Ministry of Health are prepared to confront the disease. He also encouraged the general population again not to prematurely self-medicate as a preventative measure against the virus, and not to rush out and buy medical masks. In interviews with the Brazilian Press, the Assistant Director of World Health Organization, Feiji Fukuda, refused to comment on Minister Temporao's statements, and only said that each country should be prepared for the possibility of H1N1 appearing within their borders.

14. (SBU) Last week, officials from the Ministry of Health and other

Brazilian Government agencies stated that the Brazilian government would not send any virus samples abroad to be tested. The Ministry said that all cases would be tested in Brazilian laboratories and initially stated that the Brazilian Government would produce the necessary primers domestically based on genetic information provided by the WHO. However, sources within the Ministry have indicated to the Embassy that they may seek to purchase an initial supply of primers to speed the process of testing suspect cases. NOTE. While the Brazilian Government has not explained why it will not send samples abroad, some press sources have speculated that it is linked to intellectual property rights issues related to vaccines or treatments that may be developed using samples provided to the WHO. END NOTE.

15. (SBU) Ministry of Health and ANVISA authorities continue to disperse information to passengers at all of Brazil's international airports regarding the H1N1 flu. To date, 800,000 pamphlets printed in Portuguese, English and Spanish have been handed out, and the government is printing an additional 500,000 pamphlets to be dispersed in the upcoming weeks.

16. (SBU) COMMENT: Brazil is about to enter the winter flu season, which typically lasts from June to September. Since the government has not yet developed specific medical tests to identify H1N1 cases in the country, it will become increasingly difficult to determine which of the current suspected and monitored flu cases are attributable to H1N1 and which represent cases of the normal flu season. This may be part of the reason that the Ministry of Health has adopted a diagnostic definition for H1N1 that is more specific than the WHO's definition. However, the use of this definition is likely to result in an underreporting of potential cases until a specific H1N1 test is deployed in Brazil. END COMMENT.

DEVELOPMENTS WITH MISSION BRAZIL:

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17. (SBU) Mission Brazil will begin to contact visa applicants who have scheduled or will schedule appointments for May in order to encourage them to reschedule if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms. They will be asked to contact the Mission's scheduling contractor, CSC, and the Mission will give them priority in rescheduling.

SOBEL